

ratory, and an accelerator test stand, at Los Alamos National Laboratory, both of which are to be completed during FY 1982.

A substantial increase is again planned in 1982 for the very-high-speed integrated circuit research program. DOD will spend \$42 million in 1982 on this five-year project to improve US high-speed, high-throughput signal and data processing capability. The Department expects to spend a total of \$225 million in contracts with industry and universities over the five-year period. DOD will also increase the budget for very-large-scale integration research in 1982.

The Defense Department is also pur-

suing the technology leading to electromagnetic rail guns (PHYSICS TODAY, December 1980, page 19), which it believes will offer higher projectile velocities, more precise control of projectile acceleration and range, and safer handling. The budget contains \$5 million for the development of such weapons in 1982.

The Pentagon is increasing the budget for Naval warfare technologies by 34%, to \$51 million, in FY 1982. Research goals in this area will include improving the performance of passive acoustic systems, development of active acoustic surveillance technologies, and, for the first time in 1982, exploring the possibility of nonacoustic submarine detection.

—MEJ



WESTERKAMP

Argentinian physicist arrested

José Westerkamp, a prominent Argentinian physicist, was arrested by Argentina's national police in February with other members of a human rights group there, the Center for Legal and Social Studies. At their arraignment a week later, Westerkamp and his colleagues were charged with possession of maps of military installations. They denied the charges and were released pending further investigation, according to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. If sentenced, Westerkamp can get up to eight years in prison.

Westerkamp received his PhD in 1949 from the University of Buenos

Aires. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University intermittently between 1952 and 1960, where he worked on microwave spectroscopy. He became involved in the Argentinian human rights movement about five years ago when his son was arrested. His son has been neither charged with any crime nor tried, but has been imprisoned nonetheless.

This is not the first official action taken against Westerkamp by the Argentinian government. Last year he was dismissed from his position at the University of Buenos Aires. He had been a full professor there since 1962, and has served as chairman of the

department. He directed the microwave and laser laboratories there as well.

According to the AAAS, an Argentinian law enacted in 1976 permits the universities to dismiss employees without explanation. Reports from Argentina say that this law has been used to fire all scientists with outspoken political leanings. An estimated 3000 scientists have so far been dismissed in the purge. Westerkamp, who frequently attends conferences in the US, says that this policy has led to a repressive climate of fear in Argentina's universities, and a lack of scientific freedom as well.

the physics community

AIP committee advises on public policy

The new AIP Committee on Public Policy is addressing broad issues of public affairs—technology transfer, the US R&D budget, science education—to supplement the more specialized and technical public affairs activities of AIP member societies.

The CPP was organized at a meeting of AIP staff and representatives of the member societies in January 1980. Its head is Philip Morse, who was the first chairman of the American Physical Society's Panel on Public Affairs and a former AIP Board Chairman. It was formed, according to H. William Koch, AIP Director, to fill the need of the AIP Governing Board "for a working panel of society representatives" that can participate in or initiate studies on relations of the AIP to the physics community, to government and to the public. It will address matters that affect the physics community or AIP.

Technology transfer. The CPP has reacted to the steps the US Commerce Department took to prevent scientists from the Soviet bloc from attending a February 1980 conference on magnetic bubble memories held in Santa Barbara. Commerce, citing Section 379 of the Export Regulations concerning technical data, pressured the American Vacuum Society, the sponsor of the conference, into disinviting the scientists and requiring other foreign nationals to sign letters assuring that they would not divulge information obtained at the conference to Soviet bloc nationals (PHYSICS TODAY, April 1980, page 81).

The CPP stated its position by altering a policy memorandum the White House prepared for members of the National Science Board concerning Soviets at US scientific meetings. A CPP subcommittee met with an AVS subcommittee to prepare the revision, which was discussed and approved by the CPP. Endorsed by the AIP Govern-

ing Board, it has been sent to the National Academy of Sciences, which is studying the matter.

The proposed revisions broaden the definition of "open" meetings (meetings in which information is "construed to be in the public domain"), over which the Commerce Department exercises no jurisdiction, from those whose papers are published beforehand or whose proceedings are published afterward to meetings that anyone who pays an appropriate registration fee can attend. The CPP revision would also restrict responsibility for the contents of papers to their authors and their employers, so that conference organizers would not share it. In the case of the magnetic bubble conference, the AVS and its 1980 president, John L. Vossen, were threatened with large fines and jail sentences if sensitive information were to be released at the conference to Soviet scientists.

Copyright laws and other topics. Concerning the need for changes in the